

NSA review
completed

30 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Review of PNIOs, Item 5, USIB Agenda, 1
December 1959**

PROBLEM

1. USIB consideration of the draft revised Priority National Intelligence Objectives.

DISCUSSION AS REGARDS COMINT

2. Annex A to the draft DCID 1/3 states that the PNIOs should provide the basis for determining appropriate research and collection requirements for intelligence required in the formulation and execution of national security policy, but goes on to say that they should be limited to those critical factors which require special attention and effort.

3. From the standpoint of guidance for COMINT collection effort, the PNIOs do not furnish adequate guidance: a) they are not in individual priority order, and b) they omit certain areas of important COMINT coverage. It is understood that the State Department and NSA members will advance this opinion of the inadequacy of the PNIOs for guiding COMINT collection.

4. The COMINT Committee is converting the PNIOs into a COMINT Requirements List (CRL) to be issued after the new PNIOs are approved. This list will, only in some measure bridge the gap between the generalized PNIOs and the problem of specifically tasking each intercept position and the supporting processing groups.

5. We have been advised that the DOD budget for NSA next year will be based on requirements levied on that Agency. To keep NSA from being ordered by DOD to drop work on certain COMINT objectives not included in the PNIOs or to prevent putting too many NSA assets on a single priority, the COMINT Committee should be charged with using the PNIOs as a guide but not as a total statement of priority needs.

STAT

ACTION RECOMMENDED

6. From the COMINT viewpoint, it is recommended that the COMINT Committee be directed to interpret and/or expand the approved PNIOs as necessary and submit to the Board a recommended COMINT Requirements List.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
CIA COMINT Officer